

SOME ASSISTANCE WITH REGARD TO *DODONA* SP.(LEPIDOPTERA:NEMEOBIIDAE) IN HONG KONG

By W. J. TENNENT*

Having recently received my copy of 'This is Hong Kong: Butterflies' by C. & J. Johnston, I observe on page 129 that *Dodona eugenes* Bates, is mentioned as having been first caught in Hong Kong by Mr. W. F. Palmer in 1974.

I further quote from Hill, Johnston and Bascombe 1978 (page 17): "...*Dodona eugenes* Bates *venox* Fruhstorfer

Very rare. First taken by Tennent in March and July 1973, and identified at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) as subspecies *formosana* Matsumura. Eliot, however, thinks they are ssp. *venox* Fruhstorfer . . ."

The truth of the matter is that I took three female butterflies on 14th March, 18th March and 24th July 1973 in the New Territories, Hong Kong, which I took to the BM(NH) on my return to the UK later that year. They were tentatively identified as *D.eugenes*. The ssp. nearest to my specimens in physical appearance was *maculosa* Leech from Central China; the National Collection had at that time no specimens of *formosana*, the only reference available being those illustrated by Shirozu 1960 (Plate 60, Figs 547/548), which are much smaller and darker than my specimens. They were obviously not *venox* (Eliot had not seen the specimens at that time).

Having seen the illustrations of *D.eugenes* and *D.egeon* Westwood in Fleming 1974 (The descriptions of *D.egeon confluens* Corbet and *D.deodata anu* Corbet in Volume 2 Page 15, should be reversed in reference to the appropriate illustrations on Plate 55) and Corbet & Pendlebury, I sent the specimens to the BM(NH) for more positive determination.

As a result, Mr. P. R. Ackery, BM(NH) and Colonel Eliot, are of the opinion that they probably represent a new spp. of *D.egeon*, although they are in some respects intermediate between this species and *D.eugenes*.

I understood from Mr. W. F. (Bill) Palmer in 1974, that the species had been taken again in Hong Kong that year and I expected to see it illustrated in one of the recent publications. However, this is not so and I therefore illustrate two of my three specimens here. It seems they must await the capture of a male specimen in order that genitalic examination may place the form in its rightful 'slot'. More specific data on place of capture is deliberately withheld.

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Legend to Plate I

A. *Dodona* sp. fw length 24mm. Hong Kong. 24th July 1973.

B. *Dodona* sp. (Underside). fw length 23mm. Hong Kong. 14th March 1973.

References

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 Hill, D. S., Johnston, G. & Bascombe, M. J., 1978. *Memoirs of the Hong Kong Natural History Society — Annotated Checklist of Hong Kong Butterflies*.
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TWO INTERESTING TEPHRITIDAE (DIPT.) ON A S. E. LONDON COMMON. — Of these attractive flies (long known as Trypetidae until lately, when, alas! the perennial craze for name-changing spread to affect also the higher taxa) several local and rather rare species occur in my area, besides all the commoner ones — the former already recorded in scattered notes. During the past and present seasons I was pleased to come across two further species of that class on Woolwich Common close by here. The first, *Orellia falcata* Scop., one of our larger and more conspicuous species, turned up there on 12.vii.80 — three ♀♀ of which two had a large semicircular 'bite' out of the apical margin of each wing. Both sexes occurred there sparingly in late May and early June of the next (present) year. The foodplant, *Tragopogon pratensis*, grows patchily and sparsely on the common; I have not noticed it elsewhere in the district. *O. falcata* is by no means a common insect in suburban Kent. Niblett (1956, *The Flies of the London Area*, 3: Trypetidae (*Lond. Nat. Reprint* 101): 84, under *Trypeta*) lists only three localities there — Abbey Wood Marshes, Eltham, Erith Marshes — as compared with a long series of Surrey ones. The present locality is nearest the second of these.

The other species is *Dithryca guttularis* Mg., for which the above work gives (under the emendation *Ditricha*) four Surrey localities more or less on the fringe of the Society's area and none at all in Kent, London, or Middlesex. (I recorded the species from Box Hill, Surrey, in 1962, *Ent. Rec.*, 74: 244.) This apparent rarity clearly has nothing to do with foodplants, since *Achillea millefolium*, the host of *D. guttularis*, is general and abundant. I was surprised, therefore, to meet with the fly in some numbers in an extremely restricted spot on the edge of a large patch of yarrow in a corner of the common, on 27.vii.81. Though the entire patch was swept in detail, the Tephritid seemed absent from the dense central mass, occurring only on some half-dozen more thinly-spaced plants at one side of it. All the six taken proved to be males, suggesting that the flies had only just begun to emerge; females can be expected to appear a little later. — A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE3 8QG.